

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By the present amendment, headings have been added to the specification in order to conform with U.S. practice. Further, claims 1-23 have been canceled in favor of new claims 24-50. The new claims are substantially substantively identical to claims 1-23 however they are in a better form for U.S. examination. The above amendments to the claims are not made for any reason of patentability. Still further, the Abstract has been amended to conform with U.S. practice.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on September 7, 2004.



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